

New Mexico NRCS Celebrates Diversity Heritage Day

For the 2008 Black History Awareness Month, NRCS NM Civil Rights and SEPMS decided to have a combined awareness cultural heritage day training for all employees around the state.

On April 24th, 2008 SEPM's and Civil Rights representatives from all four areas of NM put together their efforts and created a PowerPoint display using the collaboration of each SEPM with a few slides to present at their area meeting.

The theme for Black History for 2008 is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism". Ana Gomes, NM BEPM and Hope Tran, NM APIM presented the slides for their groups for the NW area meeting for NM Employees.

Ana presented slides on the history and achievements of Carter G. Woodson. Following is a recap of the BEPM PowerPoint slide

To Whom do we owe the celebration of Black History Month?

Carter G. Woodson:

- Born to parents who were former slaves
- He spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty.
- The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population
- Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Other important February Dates

February 3, 1870:

The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.

February 1, 1960:

In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a Segregated Woolworth's lunch counter

February 25, 1870:

The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office.

February 12, 1909:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.